

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
December 9, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Paul Shapiro, Susannah Everett, George & Joyce Rawitscher, Kathy Dorgan (guest), Peter Millman (guest), Matt McCann (guest), Ben Healey (guest via conference call), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by chairperson Stoddard.

The approval of the October 14, 2015 and November 18, 2015 minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Ben Healey, part of the finance team from Connecticut Green Bank, gave an overview of the solar programs available until the end of 2016. Federal incentive - A 30% federal investment tax credit reduces to 10%. State incentive – Each February through April the electric utilities purchase Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credits (ZRECs). Because the value of the ZRECs continues to drop each year, businesses interested in solar installations should participate in the ZREC program this year. Connecticut Green Bank offers: (1) 100% financing that is held with the property through CPACE (commercial property assessed clean energy) and (2) power purchase agreements or lease contracts at a cheaper rate than the utility. Green Bank has a streamlined process that makes it easy for building owners. The committee discussed the timeline in order for a business solar installation to meet the December 2016 deadline:

January - Marketing effort. The business selects a vendor. Vendor sizes the installation and energy output.

Feb – April - Vendor applies for ZRECs.

April – June - ZRECs pricing is locked in. Financing is worked out simultaneously.

July – Sept – System is installed.

Oct – Nov – Utility makes interconnection and system goes live.

The committee decided to host a business breakfast or after hours program in January with CT Green Bank as the presenter. Green Bank may pay for the food and beverages as well as produce the invitation. The Tolland and Windham chambers of commerce may be willing to publicize the program. Stoddard, Walton, Millman and Dorgan volunteered to arrange the program.

Rawitscher reported that the climate action task force is in the process of identifying and prioritizing the climate-related actions in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan, and he hopes they have something together within the next couple months.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton